Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 12 million acres, thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent; and,

Whereas, The mission of Ducks Unlimited is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. South Dakota's wetlands are valued for their role in water quality protection, flood control, water supply for cattle ranching, survival of wetland dependent wildlife, and the state's overall environmental health; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota is home to a significant portion of the Prairie Pothole Region, which supports up to 75 percent of North America's breeding duck population and is critical to the survival of millions of migratory waterfowl. A recent report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed that in a single year waterfowl hunters contributed $225 thousand to South Dakota's state tax revenue, generated a total economic output of more than $3.5 million in the state, and waterfowl hunters continue to substantially contribute to the state's economy annually; and,

Whereas, Ducks Unlimited has been an effective leader in conservation efforts throughout the state, using science-based policy and sound conservation practices to ensure waterfowl habitats will endure for generations to come. Ducks Unlimited works with South Dakota landowners to encourage grass-based agriculture that perpetuates the state's ranching heritage, protects waterfowl breeding and nesting habitat, and supports outdoor activities like birding and hunting; and,

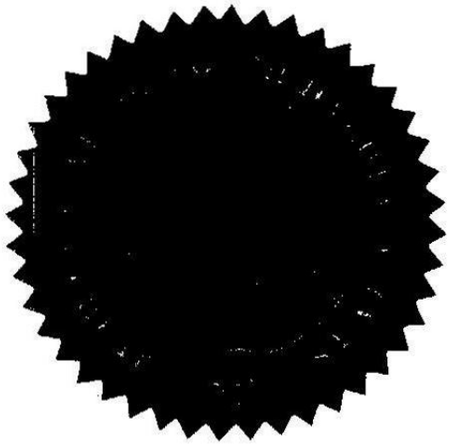
Whereas, Ducks Unlimited has forged solid relationships with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks along with other state, federal and county agencies, corporate partners, and public and private landowners so all parties work collaboratively and to ensure every dollar invested in conservation programs is used as efficiently as possible; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's more than 8,302 passionate Ducks Unlimited members and volunteers who are determined to continue this great work well into the future:

Now, Therefore, I Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 29, 2012, as

DUCKS UNLIMITED DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State